

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-04 ISO-00 OES-02 PC-01 USIA-06 INT-05

DODE-00 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 IGA-01 OMB-01

HEW-02 EB-04 ABF-01 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 L-01 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FDRE-00 EUR-08 /062 W

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P 071102Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORICY 2370

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 1640

DEPT PASS AID/PHA/FORC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SO ECON SOCI

SUBJECT: DROUGHT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE: MOGADISCIO 1603

1. SUMMARY: VISITING UN DROUGHT RELIEF ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE STANISSIS HAS CABLED UNDR0 GENEVA THAT 50,000 SOMALIS NEED "IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY" FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR INITIAL PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS. UNDP AND GSDR ARE DRAWING UP PLANS FOR MIDDLE AND LONG TERM REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION. THERE IS STRONG HUMANITARIAN CASE FOR OUR HELPING TO MEET IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY NEEDS IF IT APPEARS THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION NECESSARY TO MEET THESE NEEDS IN TIMELY FASHION. WE BELIEVE US CONTRIBUTION TO LONG TERM CHRONIC FOOD AND WATER PROBLEM CAN BEST BE HANDLED THROUGH OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OVERALL UNDP
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BUDGET. WE RESERVE OUR RECOMMENDATION ON QUESTION OF

US HELP FOR MIDDLE TERM REHABILITATION EFFORT UNTIL WE
SEE SHAPE OF UNDP/GSDR REHABILITATION PLAN AND WHAT
ALTERNATE SOURCES OF FINANCING ARE AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. STANISSIS VISITED SOMALIA OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 3, SAW
DROUGHT AREAS, TALKED TO SOMALI OFFICIALS AND SUBMITTED
REPORT TO UNDRO IN GENEVA. UNDP OFFICE HERE MADE COPY
AVAILABLE TO US, AND WE UNDERSTAND IT ALSO BEING FOR-
WARDED TO HOST CAPITALS OF PROSPECTIVE DONORS AND TO
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. STANISSIS' CABLE STATES
THAT, IN AFFECTED AREAS, "THOUGH GENERAL HEALTH SITUA-
TION NOT ALARMING HAVE SEEN SEVERAL CASES SEVERE
MALNUTRITION WHICH MAY REACH ALARMING PROPORTION
IN COMING WEEKS IF TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE
NOT PROVIDED." HE ESTIMATES POPULATION IN NEED AS
100,000, HALF OF WHOM BEING ASSISTED BY GSDR AND
50,000 "NEED IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE" FOR
INITIAL PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS. HE ESTIMATES FOOD
QUANTITIES FOR TWO MONTHS AS "CEREALS (MAIZE, SORGHUM,
RICE) 900 TONS, EDIBLE OIL 90 TONS, DRY SKIM MILK
90 TONS". HE NOTES THAT WFP WILL BE REQUESTED BY
GSDR TO PROVIDE THESE COMMODITIES "ON EMERGENCY BASIS"
AND ADDS THAT, "ABOVE FOOD COMMODITIES ARE GETTING
SCARCE IN COUNTRY AND SHOULD BE URGENTLY IMPORTED
OR PROCURED IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES."

3. STANISSIS ALSO NOTES NEED FOR BASIC PREVENTATIVE
MEDICINES AND MULTI-VITAMIN AND WATER PURIFICATION
TABLETS. (LIST SUBSEQUENTLY FURNISHED TO US BY UNDP
COMES TO SOME \$100,000 WORTH OF THESE ITEMS.) FINALLY,
STANISSIS SAYS, "GOVERNMENT WITH UNDP ASSISTANCE PRE-
PARING MIDDLE AND LONG TERM REHABILITATION AND
RECONSTRUCTION PLAN WHICH SHOULD STEP IN GRADUALLY
WHEN EMERGENCY PHASES OUT."

4. STANISSIS TOLD US HE CONVINCED THERE IS GENUINE
EMERGENCY. HE WAS PLEASED THAT GSDR HAD FACED UP
TO THIS FACT AND AT SAME TIME WAS NOT RPT NOT EXAGGERATING

EXTENT OF ITS NEEDS. HE FEELS GSDR CAN HANDLE DIS-
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TRIBUTION WITHIN SOMALIA. HE ESTIMATES COST OF FEEDING
50,000 PEOPLE FOR TWO MONTHS AS \$150,000, NOT INCLUDING
INTERNAL TRANSPORT COST. (THIS SEEMS LOW TO US
AND UNDP, AND WE NOTE THIS FIGURE IS NOT RPT NOT INCLUDED
IN STANISSIS' TELEGRAM).

5. STANISSIS AND UNDP OFFICIALS HAVE GATHERED FROM
SOMALIS THAT THEY WOULD MUCH PREFER ASSISTANCE TO COME

THROUGH UN CHANNELS, THOUGH SOMALIS TOLD STANISSIS AFTER SOME HESITATION THAT BILATERAL AID WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE. STANISSIS MADE IT CLEAR ONE OF REASONS HE CAME TO EMBASSY WAS US ABILITY TO MOVE QUICKLY AND AMBASSADOR'S \$25,000 DISASTER RELIEF AUTHORITY. (WE EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS PRESENTLY REQUIRED WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE.)

6. LIMITED INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN STANISSIS SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS GENUINE HARDSHIP AND A PROSPECTIVE EMERGENCY DUE TO UNUSUAL DROUGHT CONDITIONS. GSDR HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO COPE WITH SITUATION, INCLUDING COMMANDEERING ALL WATER MILTRUCKS FOR USE IN DROUGHT AREAS, SHPPING SUPPLIES TO AFFECTED AREAS, AND INSTITUTING RATION-CARD SYSTEM FOR SUGAR. WE BELIEVE GSDR DOES HAVE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD TO AFFECTED AREAS, AND WE BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOOD WOULD REACH THOSE IN NEED WITH RELATIVELY SMALL LOSSES DUE TO INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION. WE BELIEVE SOMALIS WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FROM US IF NOT AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES, BUT WITH MINIMUM PUBLICITY. WE DO NOT RPT NOT THINK THEY WOULD AGREE TO ANY HIGHLY VISIBLE BILATERAL PROGRAM OR MEANS OF DELIVERY EXCEPT PERHAPS IF AMOUNTS INVOLVED WERE VERY LARGE AND THERE WAS NO RPT NO ALTERNATE SOURCE FOR THEM.

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-04 ISO-00 OES-02 PC-01 USIA-06 INT-05

DODE-00 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 IGA-01 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2371

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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WHAT IS HARD FOR US TO BELIEVE GSDR COULD NOT RPT
NOT FIND MONEY TO FUND ASSISTANCE FOR 10,000 PEOPLE FROM
ITS OWN RESOURCES, BUT THESE ARE STRETCHED VERY THIN
AND TO DO SO WOULD DIVERT FUNDS FROM OTHER PRIORITY
PROGRAMS. THUS, WE WOULD AGREE WITH STANISSIS THAT
UNUSUAL DROUGHT HAS PLACED BURDEN ON GSDR WHICH MERITS
INTERNATIONAL HELP. THERE IS ALSO,
AS STANISSIS SAYS,
MIDDLE TERM PROBLEM OF EMERGENCY REHABILITATION FROM
EFFECTS OF SEVERAL YEARS OF LOW RAINFALL AND LONGER
TERM PROBLEM OF CHRONIC FOOD AND WATER SHORTAGE.

8. FIRST QUESTION IS WHETHER US SHOULD PLAY ROLE
IN MEETING IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY NEEDS. WE HAVE OUR
DIFFERENCES WITH SOMALIA, INCLUDING CURRENT CASE OF
US CITIZEN BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO BY SOMALI
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AUTHORITIES. SOMALIS WOULD PROBABLY INSIST
THAT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE COME THROUGH UN, AND WE
COULD EXPECT NO FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR IT. SOME
GOVERNMENT LEADERS WOULD BE AWARE OF OUR ASSISTANCE.
(THEY WOULD ALSO BE AWARE OF ANY OSTENTATIOUS
FAILURE ON OUR PART TO HELP OUT.) THERE IS HOWEVER
STRONG HUMANITARIAN CASE FOR OUR HELPING TO MEET
EMERGENCY NEEDS IF IT APPEARS THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION
NECESSARY TO MEET THESE NEEDS IN TIMELY FASHION.
IF US IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO EMERGENCY HELP EFFORT
ONE WAY MIGHT BE FOR ME TO TURN SOME FUNDS OVER
TO UNDP HERE.

9. WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT US ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING
CHRONIC LONG TERM FOOD AND WATER PROBLEM FALLS INTO
CATEGORY OF REGULAR AID PROGRAMS WHICH US DEBARRED FROM
EXTENDING TO SOMALIA UNDER FOREIGN AID AUTHORIZATION
ACT. PRESENT UNDP HEAD (DEPARTING IN DECEMBER)
PLANS TO RECOMMEND THAT UNDP'S 15 MILLION DOLLAR PROGRAM
IN SOMALIA BE REORIENTED TO FOCUS EVEN MORE THAN PRE-
SENTLY ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND WATER PROBLEMS. US
ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA'S LONG TERM PROBLEMS IN THESE

FIELDS IS PROBABLY BEST COVERED THROUGH US CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL UNDP BUDGET.

10. QUESTION OF MIDDLE TERM EMERGENCY REHABILITATION EFFORT FALLS SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN. WE THINK IT BEST TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT UNDP AND GSDR COME UP WITH IN TERMS OF A REHABILITATION PLAN, AND WHAT ALTERNATE SOURCES OF FINANCING ARE AVAILABLE (WE NOTE FROM NOUAKCHOTT 1668, NOTAL, THAT OULD DADDAH ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 4 THAT "CERTAIN ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS" HAD DONATED 18 MILLION DOLLARS TO SOMALIA FOR DROUGHT RELIEF) BEFORE WE MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATION ON US PARTICIPATION IN THIS EFFORT.

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